



Symbol Secrets

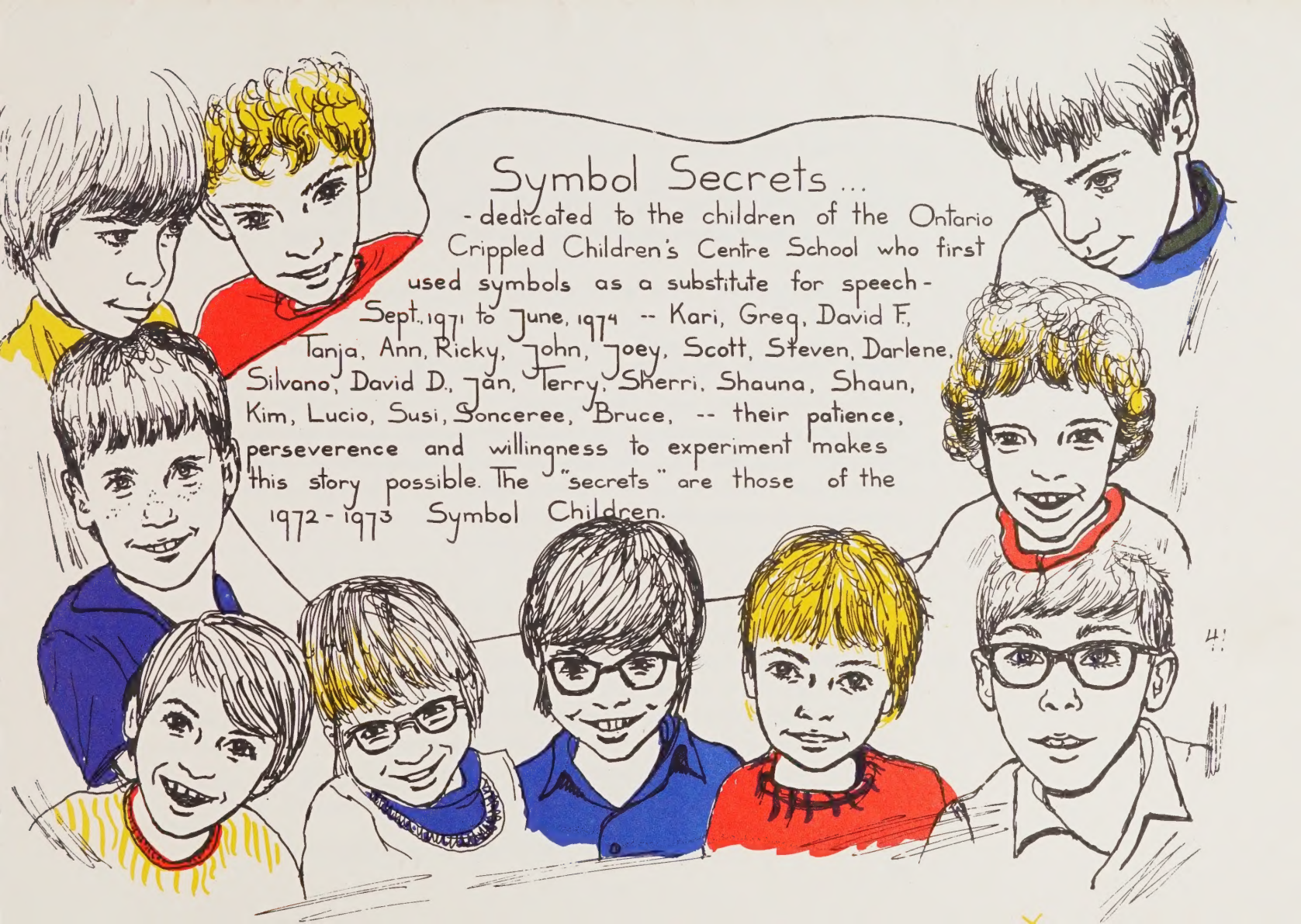
by Shirley McNaughton

Illustrations..... Anne Thomson

Lettering..... Birgitta C. Jansen

OTHER 6-13-17





Symbol Secrets ...

- dedicated to the children of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre School who first used symbols as a substitute for speech -

Sept. 1971 to June, 1974 -- Kari, Greg, David F., Tanja, Ann, Ricky, John, Joey, Scott, Steven, Darlene, Silvano, David D., Jan, Terry, Sherri, Shauna, Shaun, Kim, Lucio, Susi, Soncere, Bruce, -- their patience, perseverance and willingness to experiment makes this story possible. The "secrets" are those of the 1972-1973 Symbol Children.

(C)

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*First Printing -- University of Toronto Press, 1975.
Second Printing -- University of Toronto Press, 1979.*

The author acknowledges the assistance of the book of Charles K. Bliss, Semantography (Blissymbolics) and has whenever possible used symbols similar to those set out in his book. She hopes their use in assisting the teaching of children who lack functional speech will advance Mr. Bliss' aspiration that his symbols will receive universal application.*

Invaluable assistance has been given by the 1972-73 Symbol Teachers, Marcia Norman and Sherran Coyle. They helped tell the story as it was . . . And without the complete involvement of Birgitta C. Jansen and Anne Thompson, this book would never have become a reality.

The author is also most appreciative of the assistance of Ann Grieve who did the symbol photography, Jim Grice who drew the symbols, and of the interest shown by the author's many colleagues who helped by reading and reacting.

**Semantography (Blissymbolics) Publications, 1965*

ISBN 0-9690516-0-3

This book is published by the Blissymbolics Communication Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Institute gratefully acknowledges donation of the Hilroy Fellowship Foundation through the Canadian Teachers' Federation, which helped meet the cost of the first publication, and thanks the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre for a loan covering this second printing.

An evaluation study 1974 - 76 supported by the Ontario Ministry of Education was undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of symbol communication in a variety of settings. The results of this study have been printed in Handbook of Blissymbolics.^{} The Handbook and revised standard Blissymbol (sticker) stamps, (1978) for individualized vocabulary display construction, along with other instructional materials, are distributed by the Blissymbolics Communication Institute, 862 Eglinton Avenue, East, Toronto, Ontario Canada, M4G 2L1. Associate Membership in the Blissymbolics Communication Institute provides on-going information about the application of Blissymbols and offers a means of supporting the work of the Blissymbolics Communication Institute.^{**}*

It is the hope of the author that this book be read in every community in which a physically handicapped child is "talking with symbols". Through sharing this story of the first Ontario Crippled Children's Centre "Symbol Children", it is hoped that greater understanding will grow between every child who uses symbols and those persons in his world who want to know him better.

^{*} *Silverman, H., McNaughton, S., & Kates, B. Handbook of Blissymbolics, Toronto: Blissymbolics Communication Institute, 1978.*

^{**} *Charitable Organization Donation Number is 0459677-21-13*

*The following staff professionals contributed to the initial Ontario
Crippled Children's Centre Symbol Communication Programme:*

<i>Symbol Classroom Teachers</i>	<i>Marcia Norman Mary Snetsinger Judy Barlow, B.A. Sherran Coyle, B.A.</i>
<i>School Principal</i>	<i>Maurice Izzard, B.Ed., M.A.</i>
<i>Psycho Educational Consultant</i>	<i>Barbara Kates, M.A.</i>
<i>Speech Pathologists</i>	<i>Judy Seligman-Wine, B.A., D.S.P.A. Esther Timpany-Barker, B.A., D.S.P.A. Dale Sutherland, B.A., M.S.</i>
<i>Occupational Therapists</i>	<i>Margrit Beesley, Reg. O.T. Libby Bate, Reg. O.T.</i>
<i>Rehabilitation Engineer</i>	<i>Geoffrey Iles, Ph.D., P.Eng.</i>
<i>Technicians</i>	<i>Scott Walder, Bruce Ferguson, Michael Jenkins</i>
<i>Linguistic Research (O.S.C.C.)</i>	<i>Oliver Mott, M.A.</i>
<i>Information Officer</i>	<i>Ann Kennedy, B.A.</i>

This book -- as with every other aspect of the first Symbol Communication Programme -- resulted from the interest and efforts of many.

*Shirley McNaughton, B.A., Programme Director,
Blissymbolics Communication Institute, 1979.*

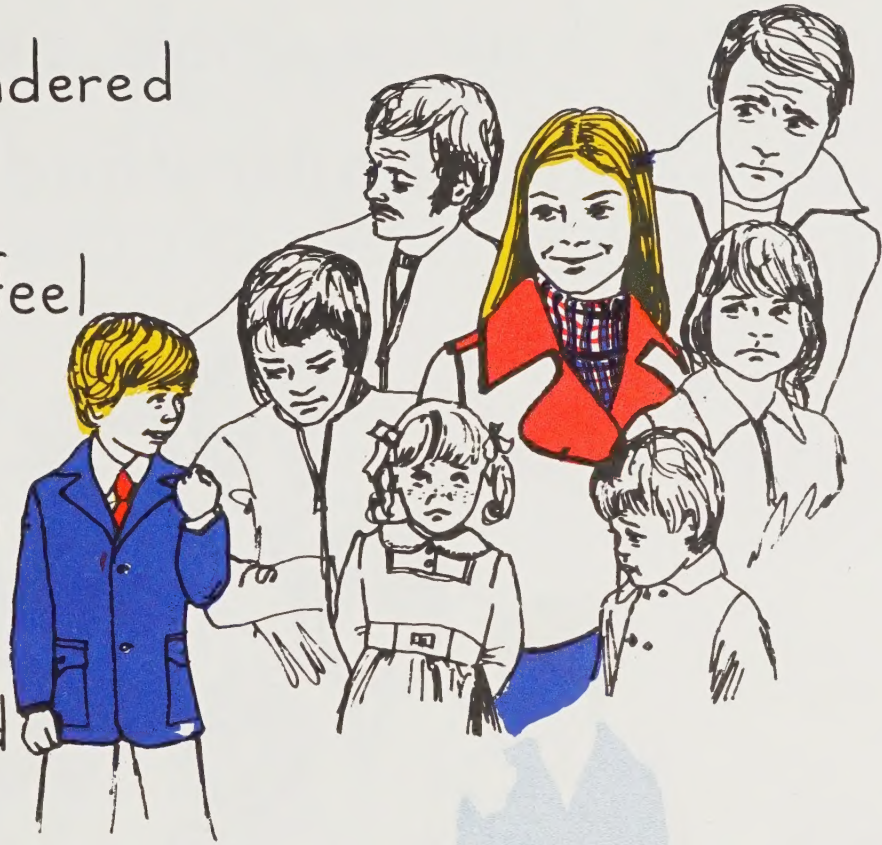
Have you ever wondered

How you would feel

If only one person

In the whole world

Could understand what you were saying?



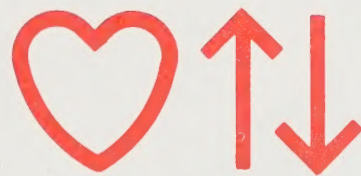
Or - if not a single person
could understand you?





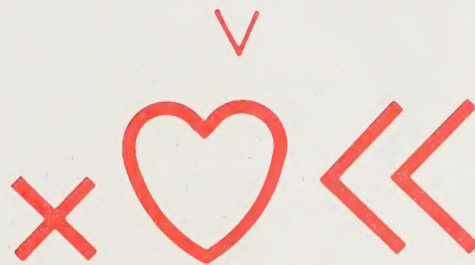
You might think that you
would feel

Upset ---




or

Angry ---



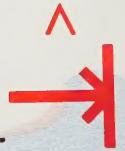



or

lonely ...  - I



or

that you would just want
to stop thinking ...  

This is a story about children
who know 

how it feels not to be understood.

They have never been able
to speak clearly !

But they are --

Happy



and

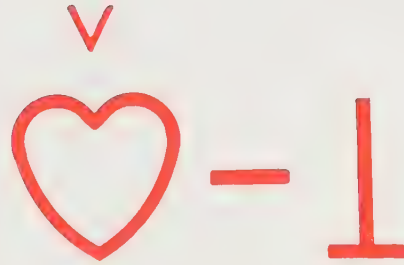
Excited



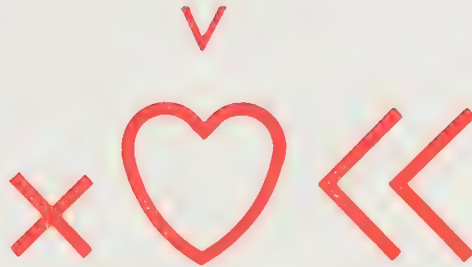
They do not feel



or



or

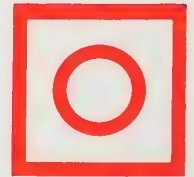


They do not want to



And there is a very
special reason!

It should never be
a secret!



It is too wonderful!

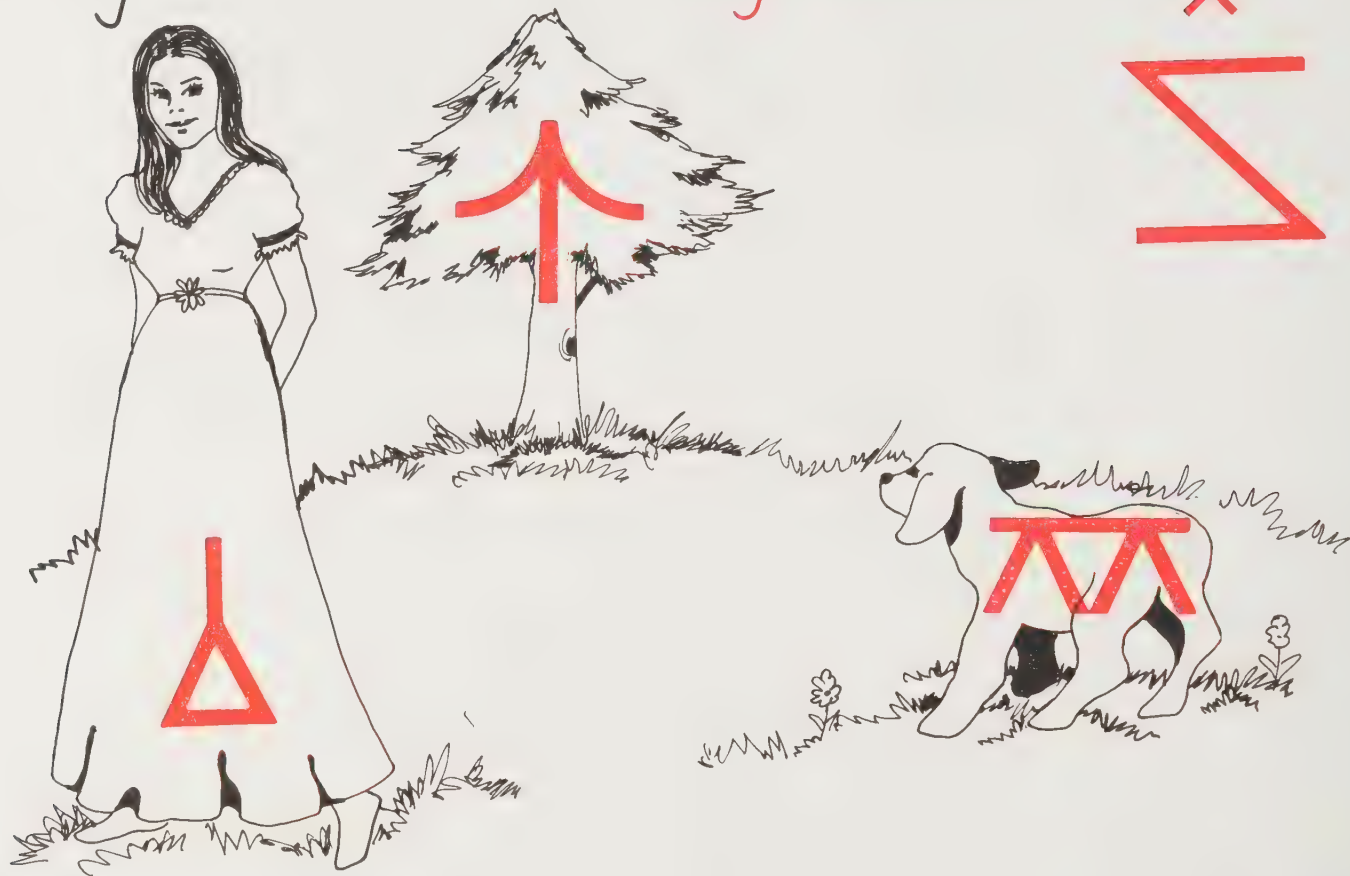
They have learned to talk

in a new way!

Without even needing

their mouths!

They talk with symbols



Now, if you are ready

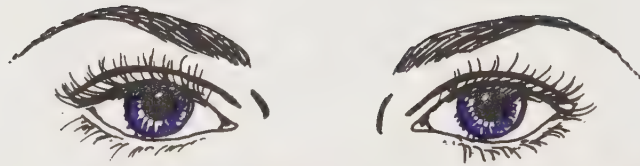
for some

symbol secrets ...



John is ready to tell you!

It's time to



"Listen" with your eyes!





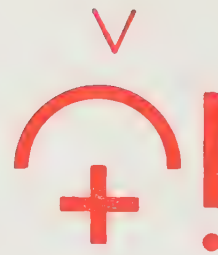
"Hello."



My name is John."

I know

some good secrets
about my friends.



We have a boy in our class ---



Some people call him --- Joey ---

... his **secret** is ...

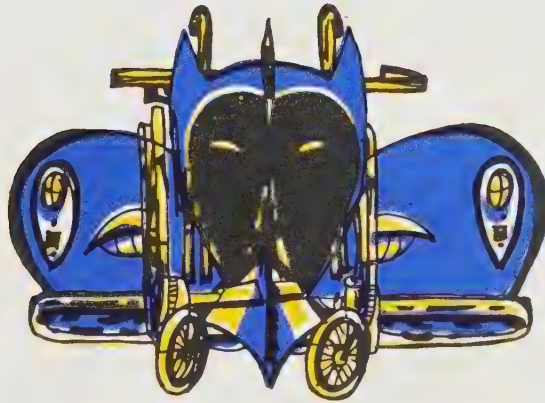


He is Batman!

人 B



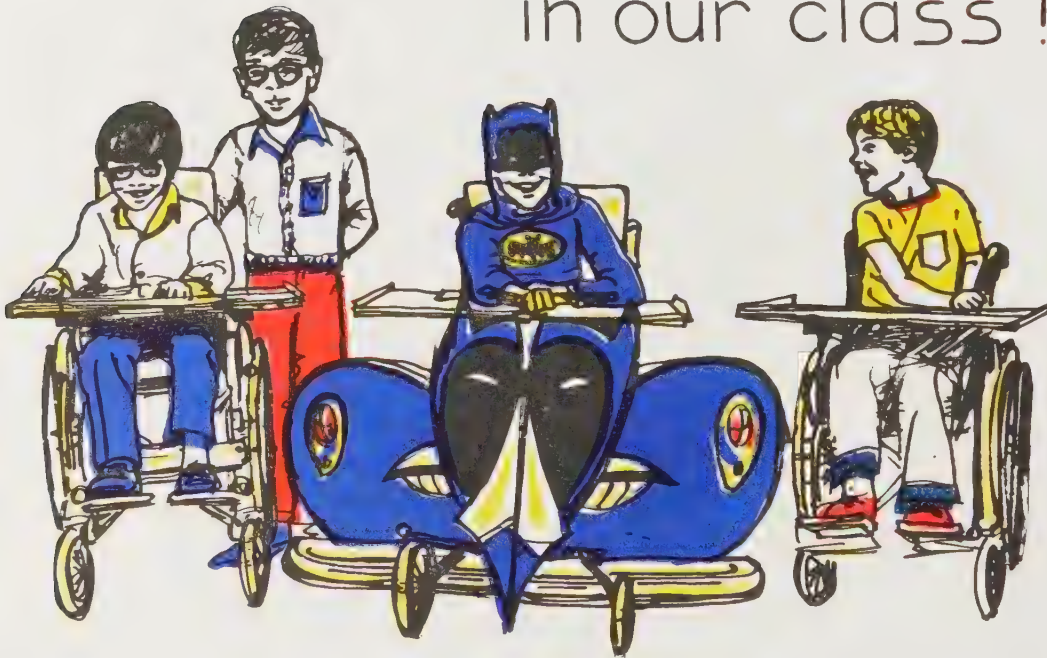
He has a Batmobile too!



=



Of course, we do have
some real boys
in our class !



We have Greg!

...shall I tell you his secret?...[✓]

✗ ⁺!

He is very good
at remembering
telephone
numbers!

Are you? 233-2489



Can you remember?

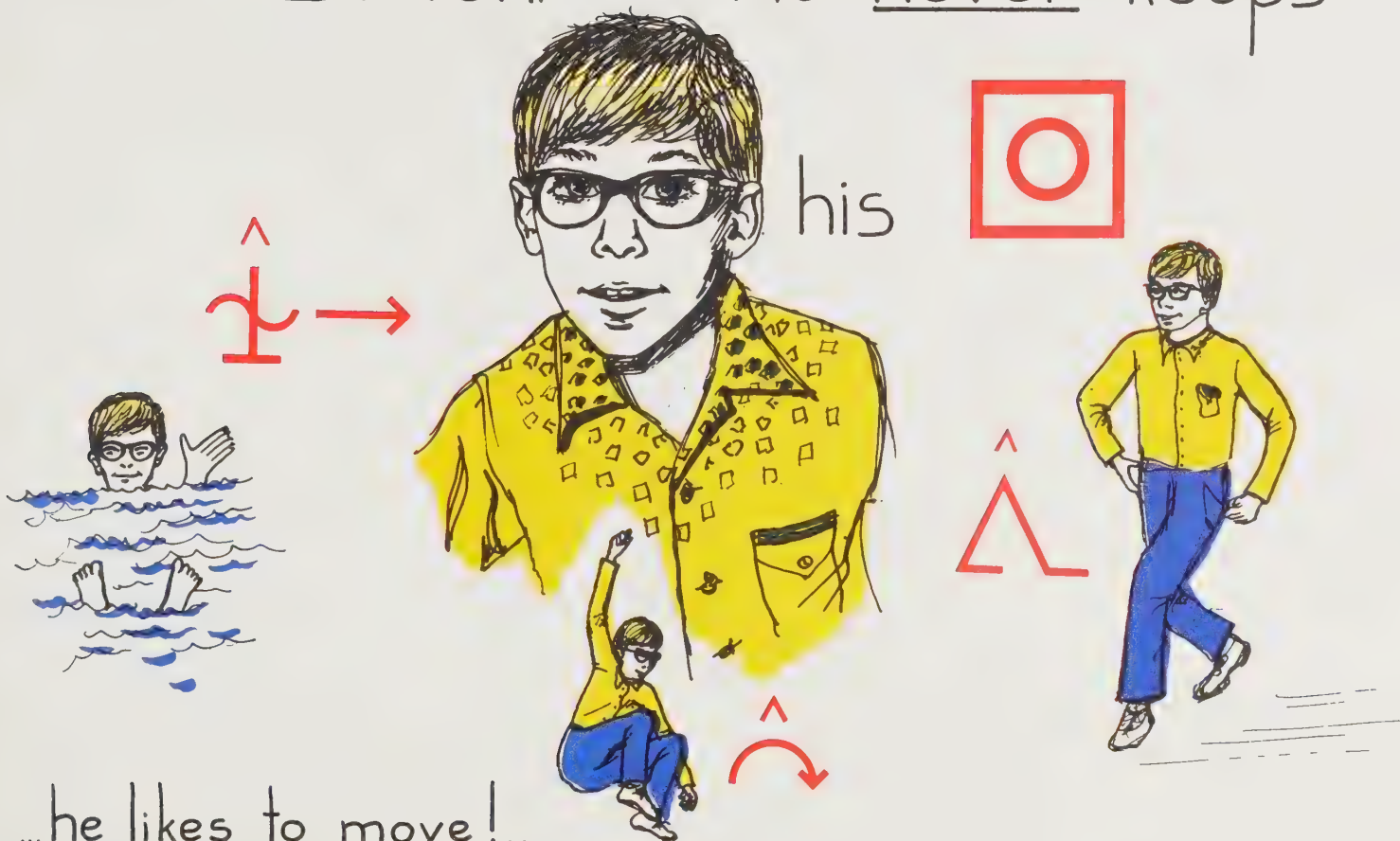
? was it ... q21-4460 ---

? or ... 233-248q ---

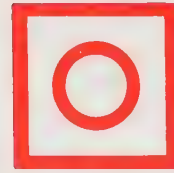
? or ... 425-1424 ---

Greg can!

This is Steven. He never keeps



Here is another



We are not all boys



in our class

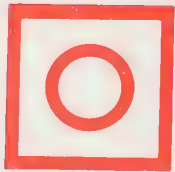
We have Kari





She is a girl!



It's not easy --- being the only girl ---
but

...Her  is

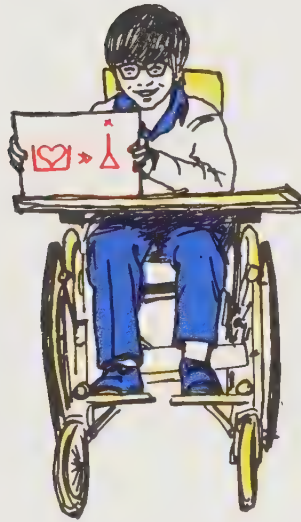
 \Rightarrow  women's
lib...

and

She gets along just fine!

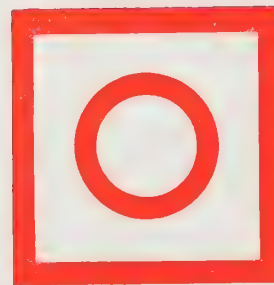


If Kari ever has any real trouble ---



I am there to help !

I know another



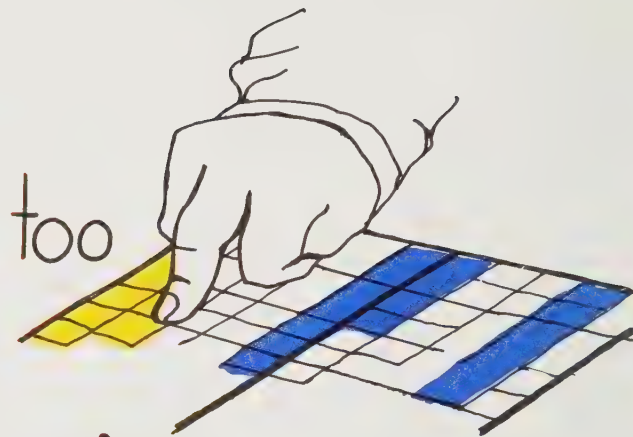
In another part of our room --



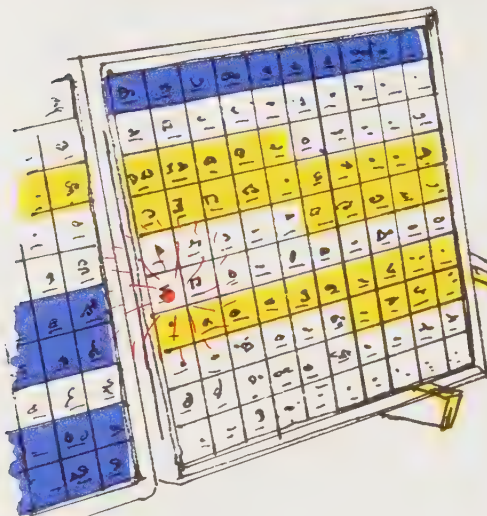
There are five more



They talk with
but---



Instead of using their fingers,
like us---



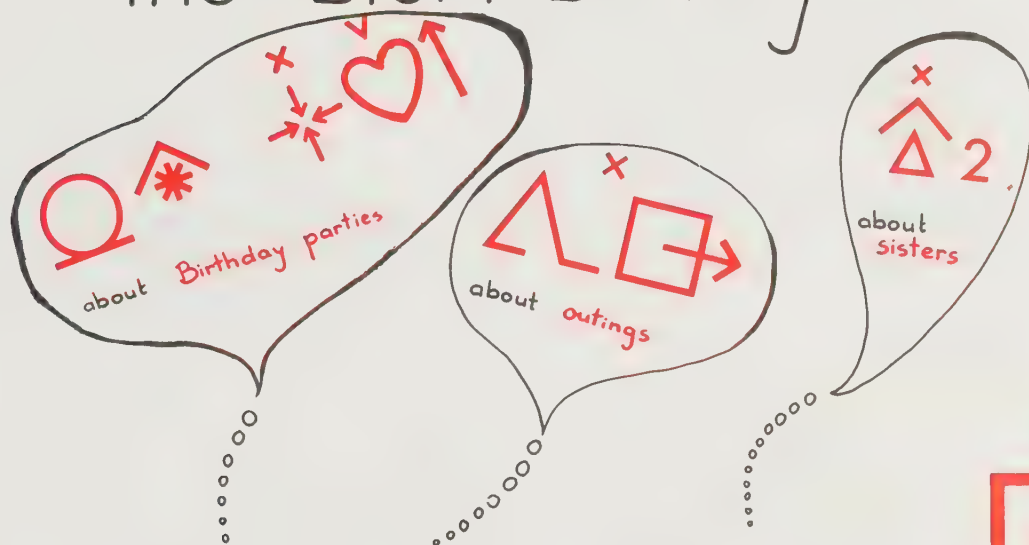
They make lights



point to their



You should hear some of
the stories they tell !



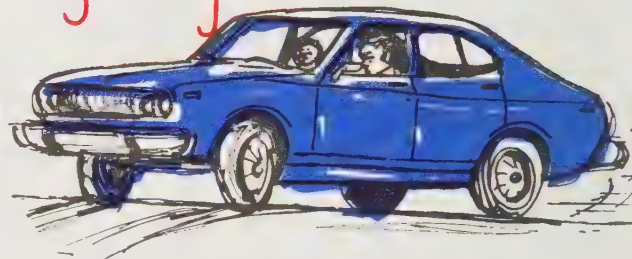
They are just full of  !

Scott tells stories

about --



going in the car...



animals...

x



his home...

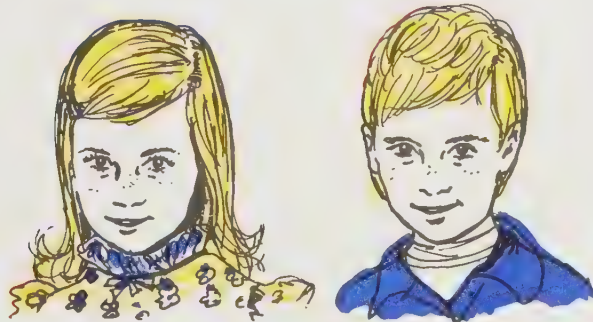


And David!

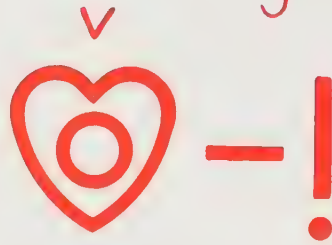
...His secret is ...

he'd like to trade his

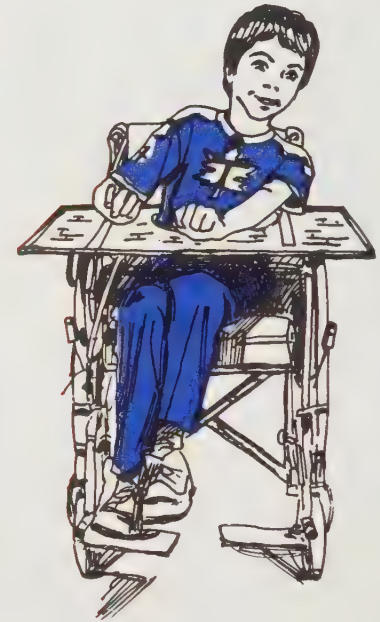
sister for a brother !



Silvano is the oldest and wisest...
He makes certain the secrets do
not become too *yukky!*



...Silvano's secret is...
...He plays hockey!...



And...

best of all...

2 2

There are two girls!



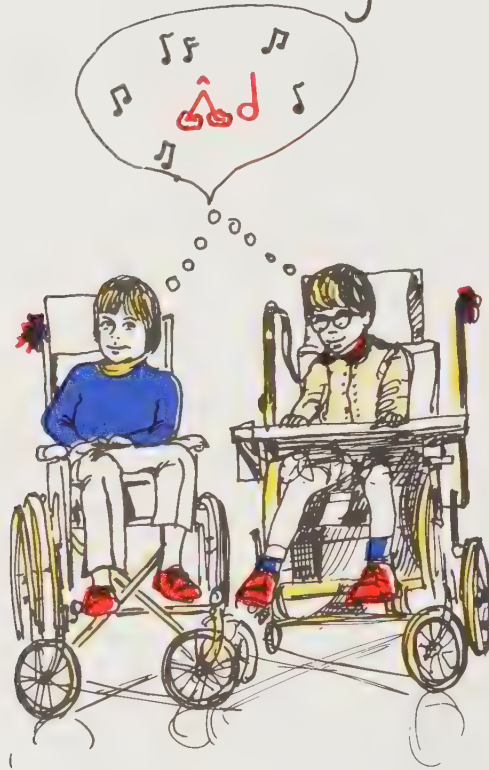
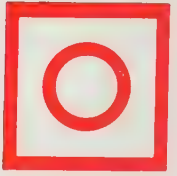
Ann

and



Darlene

I bet you cannot guess their



34 They love to dance !

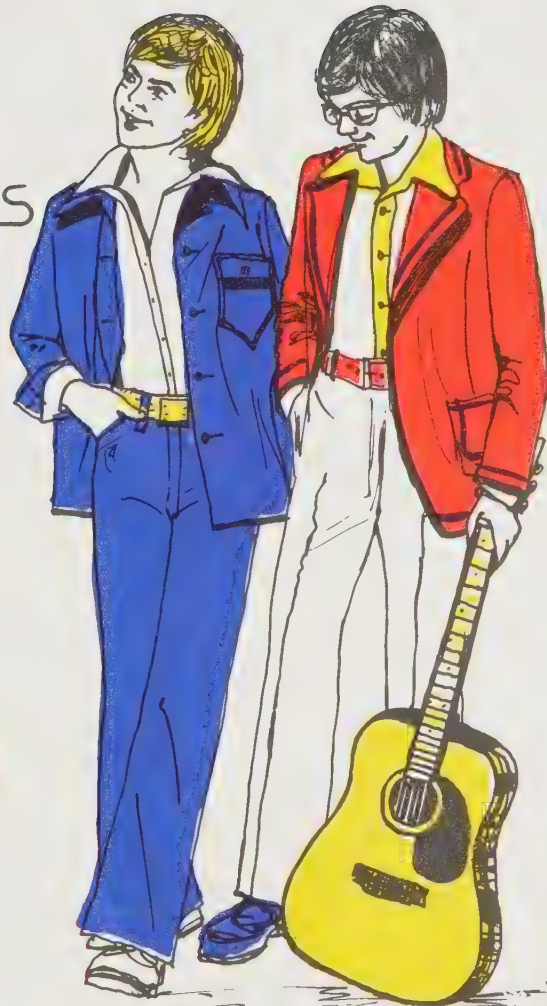


One day...
our friend Reeves
brought his guitar
to school.

His brother

^ 2

came too!




Did Ann and Darlene
Ever surprise us!


They began to **Ad** !





I just had to tell them

my 

--- how I **felt** about them! 

So I made them cards



I put Kari's special Σ on
the cards -- Remember ?



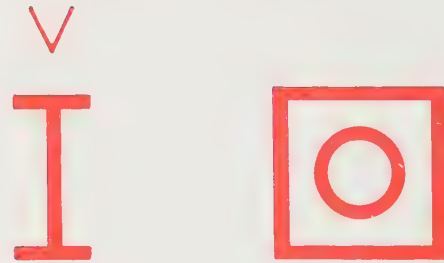
Thank you ♥ ↕

for "listening" to our
secrets !

4!

69

Now we have a



big secret

for you ... 12



They are from us --

-- to

12

Now - how does that make





THIS PAGE REVEALS THE SYMBOL SECRETS to the teachers and parents so that they can explain them in their own way to their children. For the first time in the history of mankind a logical pictorial symbol writing has been invented that can be read in all languages of mankind. In honour of the inventor Charles K. Bliss it is called BLISSYMBOLICS. And herebelow are his basic symbols and some of their combinations as shown in this book. First the explanations of the title symbols SYMBOL SECRETS

The SYMBOL shows the picture of a pen in inclined writing position, between heaven and earth which together form the meaning of our world and with the pen added we get the symbol for world writing. The symbol for SECRET shows the picture of the mouth for speaking inside an enclosure For those who are inside it there are no secrets. For those who are outside it they remain SECRETS.

But first we must learn the Blissymbol Indicators three very small symbols which you can see above some symbols in this book. The first indicator shows a small multiplication mark, meaning multiple the plural. On page 18 you see a boy turned into the plural boys. The second indicator shows a little volcano cone which indicates the first Action on our young earth. This small symbol stands therefore for action the verb. On page 21 you see the picture of legs and feet. With the action indicator on top we get to walk, to go. The third indicator shows a cone standing on its top. This is a very precarious position likely to topple over. In Blissymbolics it means describing an eValuation made by a human mind, and not two minds are alike, think alike and act alike. On page 14 you see the outline of the skull which houses the brain, our mind our feelings symbolised by the heart and our rational reasonings. This means a positive favourable mental attitude and with the exclamation mark added it means good. This means a negative unfavourable mental attitude and with the exclamation mark added it means bad. This indicator indicates the adjective or adverb and gives it a new and fickle meaning because what one mind may consider as being "good" another mind may think it is "bad" and to-morrow both minds may change to the contrary. Now look out for this fickle indicator on top of some of the symbols shown in the pages mentioned below. The indicator appears only once for easy identification at the begin.

Page 3 upset The heart symbolises feelings, emotions With the arrow up it means heartlifting joy being happy With the arrow down it means downheartedness, being unhappy With both arrows it means our mixed feelings of being upset.

Page 3 angry This is a rather complicated combination of basic symbols and it has to be explained in detail. The first symbol is the small multiplication mark meaning in this position much. The second basic symbol is the heart for our feelings. The third symbol is the relation symbol we learned in arithmetics. When we double this symbol we get a purposeful relation meaning purpose. When we turn these 2 symbols into the opposite direction we get the symbol for counterpurpose, opposition and this makes us much, very angry.

Page 4 lonely This is a feeling without (minus) — a human being around and with us.

Page 4 to stop We see the arrow moving and suddenly being stopped at a line. The opposite meaning is start.

Page 4 to think This symbol shows the skull, indicating our rational mind and the action to think.

Page 5 to know This is a combination of our brain, mind and a box, an enclosure together our "mind box" all our knowledge contained in our brain. With the action indicator it means to know.

Page 6 happy This symbol has been explained already under page 3 (see above)

Page 8 secret This symbol combination has been explained already in the first paragraph (see above)

Page 10 woman, lady This is the picture of a man in trousers with legs apart and this a woman in a skirt

Page 10 tree This is the picture of a tree.

Page 10 animal This is a picture of a four-legged animal in the barest outline.

Page 12 to look This is the picture of the eye and with the action indicator on top it means to look, see.

Page 13 hello We see the mouth saying "hello" when people meet indicated by the two arrows. The opposite meaning is when people part indicated by the two arrows and the mouth says "Good bye, Au revoir, A rivederci, Auf Wiedersehen" and so on in all other languages of mankind.

Page 14 good The reasoning mind shows a positive favourable mental attitude stressed by the added exclamation mark. The opposite meaning of bad shows the reasoning mind, the minus, and the exclamation mark.

Page 16 Batman The picture of a man with legs apart and the letter B for Batman

Page 17 wheelchair The picture of a chair and a wheel combined.

Page 17 Batmobile The picture of a car and the letter B for Batman's car.

Page 18 boys From the lower parts of the symbols for man and woman we develop the symbols for male and female and combine with a little circle which represents the head of a boy or a girl of pre-teenage.

Page 19 very The small multiplication mark in this position symbolises the meaning of much, many, and very(much)

Page 21 to swim This combination must be explained in detail. A human being either sex standing

upright with feet apart. He or she stands in water symbolised with a wave. This means bathing. Then the added arrow means a forward movement and altogether it means to swim and swimming.

Page 21 to walk We see the picture of the two legs and feet and the action indicator on top means to walk.

Page 21 to jump We see the arrow making a jump.

Page 22 all This is a very important symbol of the logic of Blissymbolics, which pictures Alfred Korzybski's warning that we shall not say the word "all" in an all-encompassing sense, meaning "all this" or "all that" of "all" our world. We must think that our saying of "all" should be in a very restricted sense as for instance "all apples in this box" or "all children in this schoolhouse." Bliss takes the big multiplication mark meaning a multitude and restrict this multitude by an enclosure together the meaning of "all in a restricted sense". Korzybski is the author of General Semantics. This is a Greek word semantics meaning significant meaning. Bliss chose this word and the additional Greek word of graphein to form his word for his work Semantography a very meaningful writing which later was named Blissymbolics.

Page 23 girl This symbol has been explained under page 18 which see.

Page 24 Women's liberation This is a complex combination which must be explained in detail. From the symbol of an enclosure we can develop the symbol for an opening. When we put our symbol, the heart for our feelings and emotions into the enclosure we feel oppressed and this means oppression. But within the symbol for opening we do not feel oppressed, we feel free and this means freedom. The next symbol is the small meaning for purpose discussed under page 3 and the small meaning is for. The last symbol is the picture of a woman with the multiple indicator on top meaning the plural women. Together "Freedom for Women".

Page 27 children This too is a complex combination. We picture the two opposite eValuations big and small. Then we add the picture of a flower. Then we combine the two meanings and get a "small flower" and look, it looks indeed like a little child with too big a head and the two small pathetically outstretched arms and feet.

Page 29 birthday This is a combination of 4 basic symbols. The sun over the earth means a day. A star under a roof of a home signifies a happy event, a stella nova, a new creature, a baby is born to happy parents, together the symbol means birth and all 4 basic symbols together mean birthday.

Page 29 outing We see the picture of legs and feet marching out of some enclosure

Page 29 gathering We see 4 arrows converging from the four corners of the compass to mean gathering.

Page 30 car The picture of a car in the barest outline we learned already under page 17

Page 30 to go See to walk under page 21.

Page 31 sister This symbol needs a lot of explaining of basic symbols for the members of a human family. When a man and a woman marry, they look first for a roof for protection of themselves and their coming children. So, here we have the combined symbol for a married couple. And here is the Father and the Mother. Daddy and Mommy. Now look, the roof lines have disappeared and you see your Daddy and your Mommy opening their arms to embrace you in love. When a male child is born under the roof they have a son or a daughter. And when a 2nd child is born to them it is either a brother or a sister.

Page 31 brother See the explanations above.

Page 32 yukky, augh This is a rather complex symbol and it must be explained together with the opposite on

Page 37 wow These are exclamations of feelings bad or good about something which force us to exclaim, to utter through the mouth the exclamations of "yukky" (bad) or "wow" (good) about something or someone whom we dislike (yukky, augh) or like. But they are eValuations of course, and tomorrow we may change our mind. The man we dislike (yukky) today we may come to like (wow) tomorrow. For the meaning of an eValuation see the paragraph on the Blissymbol Indicators at the beginning of this page.

Page 34 to dance We see the picture of the legs and feet in action and the international symbol of a musical note together to dance and dancing.

Page 37 to feel This symbol of the heart to express our feelings and emotions we know already.

Page 39 thank you This is a combination of 3 basic symbols the first is the heart to indicate our "heartfelt thanks". The second basic symbol is the outline of a vessel which may mean the vessel of our heart out of which the upward arrow emerges symbolising giving out of the vessel of our heart, together "thank you". For the meaning of you see page 40 below.

Page 40 big This symbol we have already discussed under page 27 which please see above.

Page 40 you This symbol shows the picture of an upright human being either sex. When we add the number 1 to it we get the meaning of "I". With the number 2 it means "you". With the number 3 we get "he or she". With the multiple indicator on top and the number 1 or 2 or 3 we get the meanings of "we", "you" and "they".

The National Film Board of Canada and of Australia (which is Charles Bliss home country) have made an one hour TV documentary film under the title "Mr. Symbol Man." This film is available for showing, also the "Book to the Film" which shows the 100 basic symbols and over 1500 combinations for millions of meanings in all languages. It contains also a contribution by Shirley McNaughton how to teach the Blissymbols to non-speaking children.



